

SAT MAY 27 1995

Conflict cited in refusal of mayor's name for ad

By Craig Staats

STAFF WRITER

OAKLAND — Some East Bay Raiders fans were fuming Friday when they didn't see Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris' name in a newspaper advertisement urging Al Davis to move his football team back to Oakland.

But don't blame Harris. His office said he offered to lend his name to the appeal, but Coliseum lawyers vetoed the idea.

They feared it could raise a conflict-of-interest problem if Harris ever has to vote on a new lease between the Coliseum and the Raiders.

Harris quickly agreed

Harris spokeswoman Crystal Page said someone from the Coliseum called, asked Harris for permission to use his name in the advertisement, and the mayor quickly agreed.

"He (Harris) said that would be great," said Page.

"As far as he knew, he was supposed to be in it."

But when Harris' name wasn't one of the 63 names of community leaders included in the full-

page Tribune ad, staffers did some checking and discovered the reason.

10 mayors' names

In all, 10 mayors' names appeared, including Berkeley's Shirley Dean, Fremont's Gus Morrison, San Leandro's Ellen Corbett and Pleasanton's Ben Tarver.

None of them, however, would have to vote on a Raiders-Coliseum lease, if the longshot move actually were to happen.

Oakland City Councilmember Ignacio De La Fuente (San Antonio-Fruitvale) said the missing council signatures should not be construed as a lack of support for the Raiders' return.

De La Fuente agreed that the council may want to remain above the commotion, in case Davis ultimately chooses Oakland and members have to vote on specifics regarding the team's return.

"We are directly involved, and we will have decision-making powers in this issue," he said.

"But I am openly in support, no question about that."

WED MAY 31 1995

Coliseum PROGRAM TEAM grand tour OAKLAND RAIDERS for Raiders ECONOMIC REPORT

Executives visit to examine proposal to upgrade facility

By Dave Newhouse
and David K. Li
STAFF WRITERS

OAKLAND — Top Los Angeles Raiders executives toured the Oakland Coliseum Tuesday, examining the details of Oakland's \$85 million proposal to upgrade the stadium for football, Coliseum officials said.

The Oakland offer is now before Raiders owner Al Davis, who is weighing the Coliseum proposal against plans for a new stadium in Inglewood. Davis has not selected a home field for the upcoming season.

Inglewood and Hollywood Park officials want the Raiders to play two more years at a temporary site in Southern California before moving into a proposed new stadium at the racetrack in 1997. Proponents of the East Bay plan have offered Davis a 16-year lease at the Oakland Coliseum that would begin this fall.

Coliseum President George Vukasin said Raiders administrators visited the Coliseum to study the renovation package more closely. He said no effort was made to sweeten the offer and that Raiders administrators wanted to get a close look at the plans. Davis was not among the visiting Raiders officials.

"The officials are here just to get a better focus on what's happening here," Vukasin said. "How many seats are between the 20 and 30 (yard lines), between the 30 and 40 — those kinds of details."

Although Vukasin refused to name any of the team officials who visited Oakland, Raiders Executive Assistant Al LoCasale was spotted walking the grounds of the Oakland Coliseum on Tuesday.

The Raiders played in the Oakland Coliseum from 1966 to 1981, before Davis moved the team to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Since Davis left Oakland, 68 luxury suites have been installed at the

...ct firm, actor also on visit

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Oakland Coliseum.

"I can tell you he was here for a further look-see," Coliseum General Manager Bob Quintella said of LoCasale, who joined the Raiders in 1969. "He was here to remember how everything was laid out."

In addition to LoCasale and Coliseum officials, the touring party included two builders representing architects Ellerbe Becket Inc. and a contractor working for the Raiders,

Quintella said.

Among the most prominent stadium and arena designers in the nation, Ellerbe Becket prepared the Oakland Coliseum expansion plans, which would increase football seating to more than 65,000.

"Everyone's really excited," Quintella said. "It would be a rejuvenation for the community if the Raiders came back."

Staff writer Craig Staats contributed to this report.